

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Bulgaria
Program Title:	Vibrant Civil Society
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	183-0210
Status:	Continuing
Proposed FY 2003 Obligation:	\$3,750,000 AEEB
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$1,105,000 AEEB
Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:	\$4,000,000 AEEB
Year of Initial Obligation:	1992
Estimated Completion Date:	2007

Summary: USAID seeks a broad-based, representative, pluralistic, and democratic political culture in Bulgaria through supporting anti-corruption and ethnic integration efforts; strengthening non-governmental organizations (NGOs); and promoting transparent legislative processes and viable independent media. Activities include: technical assistance to introduce anti-corruption practices; community funds and social enterprise NGO development; ethnic integration initiatives; media training on reform issues; and targeted Parliamentary assistance activities.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2003 Program:

Anti-corruption program (\$2,250,000 AEEB). Within the Open Government Initiative, USAID will 1) support the GOB Anti-Corruption Commission, National Audit Office, Public Procurement Directorate, Public Internal Financial Control Agency, and two pilot ministries to improve their internal controls, 2) introduce anti-corruption practices, and 3) enhance transparency of the government procurement process. Thirteen NGO projects will be implemented in the area of anti-corruption, consisting of public awareness, advocacy, monitoring, and civil investigations of corruption allegations. Principal contractors/grantees are: DPK Consulting (prime) and Coalition 2000 (sub).

Conflict prevention/ethnic integration (\$600,000 AEEB). Forty-two community development projects to improve economic, educational and social opportunities for the Roma minority will be implemented in three targeted locations. They will create more than 100 new jobs for unemployed Roma and engage more than 1600 children in activities, thereby preventing school drop-outs. GOB will be assisted in development of an ethnic integration program. Principal contractor/grantee is: Partners-Bulgaria (prime).

Community funds and social enterprises (\$600,000 AEEB). The newly-founded community funds will receive training to mobilize local resources. Twenty-three social service NGOs will acquire training and technical assistance to develop social enterprises. Principal contractor/grantee is: Counterpart International (prime).

Advocacy and public awareness through media (\$200,000 AEEB). In FY 2003, USAID will concentrate on advocacy and public awareness activities for the inclusion of vulnerable groups into society in the areas of rule of law, decentralization of government, anti-corruption, increased effectiveness of the legislature, and resolution of ethnic tensions. Over 150 journalists will be trained in the USAID-supported Broadcast Training Center and on-site in seven regions of the country. The implementation of the anti-terrorism and anti-corruption investigative journalism fellowship programs will continue. Principal contractor/grantee is: IREX (prime).

Transparent political processes (\$100,000 AEEB). USAID will continue to fund the Parliamentary Internship Program to support legislative research for the Parliament.

FY 2004 Program:

Anti-corruption program (\$2,250,000 AEEB). USAID will continue ongoing efforts to improve accountability and transparency. On the NGO side, USAID will support (a) policy reform, public awareness, and corruption monitoring activities of Coalition 2000 and (b) grassroots anti-corruption activities of 13 local NGOs.

Ethnic integration (\$850,000 AEEB). The ethnic integration program may expand to new towns with significant minority populations to address economic, education, and social issues of the Roma minority. The GOB ethnic integration program design will be completed.

Community funds and social enterprises (\$600,000 AEEB). The Community Fund program will continue to receive training and technical assistance to address sustainability issues, by attracting more local resources. It may be expanded to more municipalities. Social service NGOs will receive grants to implement their business plans.

Transparent political processes (\$150,000 AEEB). USAID will continue to fund activities which enhance the transparency of the political process, including the Parliament.

Advocacy and public awareness through media (\$150,000 AEEB). USAID plans to continue advocacy and public awareness efforts to improve inclusion of vulnerable groups into society.

Performance and Results: As a result of the anti-corruption awareness campaign of the USAID-supported Coalition 2000, the Bulgarian public decreased its tolerance for corrupt practices. The fight against corruption became a priority issue for the political leadership and a Government Anti-Corruption Commission was established. USAID assistance has increased the capacity of 13 leading NGOs to provide technical and financial assistance to the civil society sector. In 2002, USAID addressed donor dependency of the NGO sector by establishing three community funds to engage the private sector, local government, and citizens. The program provided assistance to 23 social services NGOs to develop businesses that advanced the goals of these NGOs. USAID helped achieve important legal changes such as tax amendments to decrease tax burdens on NGOs and to stimulate donations. Fact-based, professionally-produced TV reporting has emerged in Bulgaria as a direct result of the USAID-funded Broadcast Training Center. Under the Ethnic Integration program, 17 projects were completed, and 42 more initiated to address social, educational, and economic problems of the Roma minority in three pilot cities with large Roma populations. The program established 2 multi-ethnic Conciliation Commissions to resolve local issues. Legislative assistance in 2002 resulted in support for the newly elected Parliament through a members' orientation conference, the publication of a parliamentary handbook, and training of the administration. The Parliamentary Internship Program gained recognition from new members of Parliament and committee chairs for the high quality of its legislative research assistance.

By the end of its program, USAID expects to see increased tolerance, employment, and school attendance of ethnic minorities in key locations with significant minority populations. A comprehensive ethnic integration program will have been implemented. A network of sustainable Community Funds programs will have been established. Social service NGOs will be providing sustainable services to vulnerable populations. Highly qualified media experts will actively advocate for reform. The TV Broadcast Training Center will offer sustainable services to private media. In anti-corruption, USAID expects increased transparency and accountability of target Bulgarian government institutions and enhanced public awareness through civil society watch-dog mechanisms.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Bulgaria

183-0210 Vibrant Civil Society	AEEB	ESF
Through September 30, 2001		
Obligations	22,601	2,464
Expenditures	17,084	2,464
Unliquidated	5,517	0
Fiscal Year 2002		
Obligations	5,807	0
Expenditures	6,087	0
Through September 30, 2002		
Obligations	28,408	2,464
Expenditures	23,171	2,464
Unliquidated	5,237	0
Prior Year Unobligated Funds		
Obligations	1,105	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2003 NOA		
Obligations	3,750	0
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2003		
Obligations	4,855	0
Proposed Fiscal Year 2004 NOA		
Obligations	4,000	0
Future Obligations	0	0
Est. Total Cost	37,263	2,464